

The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

APRIL 1999





Rules and Regs • ARRL Report • VE Exams Schedule Public Service Report • DX Column • Regional Hamfests Club Reports • Shack Sales • Much More!



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The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

April 10	Catawba Valley Hamfest & Computer Fair, Morganton, No	C 828-433-6205
April 11	Raleigh ARS, Raleigh, NC	919-266-7883
April 17	Murray State University ARC, Murray, KY	502-762-6433
April 18	MIT RS & Harvard Wireless Club, Cambridge, MA	617-253-3776
April 18	Two Rivers ARC, Monroeville, PA	412-751-9657
April 24	Cherryville Repeater Assn., Harmony Twp., NJ	908-454-4370
April 24	Chesapeake AR Service, Chesapeake, VA	757-382-0193
May 1	AARC Hamfest/Computerfest, Grasonville, MD	
May 1	Nashville ARC, Nashville, TN	615-865-6225
May 2	Antietam Radio Association, Hagerstown, MD	304-728-7769
May 2	Metro 70cm Network, Yonkers, NY	914-969-1053
May 2	Jackson County ARC, Ripley, WV	304-372-2849
May 14-16	Dayton ARA, Dayton, OH	937-427-3109
May 29	Champlain Valley ARC, Plattsburgh, NY	518-643-9657
June 4-6	Atlantic Division/New York State Conv., Rochester, NY	716-424-7184
June 6	Ole Virginia Hams ARC, Manassas, VA	703-369-2877
June 12	Forsyth ARC, Winston-Salem, NC	336-723-7388

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome! The next meeting will be held on April 14th in Takoma Park, Maryland at Columbia Union College, HMS Richards Bldg., Flower Avenue (Take beltway exit 30, South on Colesville Road to Franklin Avenue, left on Franklin to Flower, right on Flower to Carroll Ave., left on Carroll to Greenwood Ave., left on Greenwood to 2nd building on left.

Talk-in on 146.55

Photo by Chip Weems, W4PBG

On The Cover

Pictured on the cover of Auto Call this month is (left) Les Jamison, WR3X, incoming President for the Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (HEMARC) and (right) Nick Yakanovich, N3NY, 1998 President of HEMARC. Les and Nick recently operated the HEMARC club station for the W2W Pearl Harbor Day special event. The club station is located in the HEMARC museum in Linthicum.



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford, W4HU

The purpose of The ARRL Letter is to provide essential news of interest to active amateurs promptly and efficiently, and in advance of publication in our official journal, QST. The ARRL Letter strives to be fast, accurate, concise, and readable. Material from The ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic databases. Credit must be given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

DXers CLAMOR FOR E44DX

The DX community wasted no time in mounting a full-blown DXpedition to the newly minted DXCC entity of Palestine. The E44DX operation commenced February 16 at approximately 1200 UTC, shortly after the call sign was released to the Palestine Wireless Society by the Palestinian National Authority's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT). During its first 48 hours, E44DX racked up more than 10,000 contacts. The team also got to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who expressed his support for ham radio and sent his regards to the worldwide amateur community.

After the DXpedition ends, the E44DX call sign will be assigned to the newly formed Palestinian Amateur Wireless Society. Arrangements are being made to leave equipment behind for the new club station, assuring continued Amateur Radio activity from E4.

Led by Marti Laine, OH2BH, the international team includes QST DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, as well as Pekka Kolehmainen, OH1RY, and Pekka Holstila, OH2TA. They are working in cooperation with Ali Yashruti, E44A (formerly ZC6A) and Sami, E44B (formerly ZC6B), using two stations from the Palestine Hotel equipped with Yaesu FT-1000MPs and FET amplifiers. Antennas are dipoles and verticals.

Initial operation was on SSB only, concentrating on 3795, 14,195, and 21,295 kHz, but the team took to 40-meter CW early on February 18 and planned to concentrate on 40 CW for the next night as well. The team has been using 7005 or 7010 and listening up—sometimes way up. Some stations reported success only after several hours of calling. E44DX was to be active all day February 19 on 15-meter CW as well. The DXpedition also got on 40 SSB (7061 kHz) early on February 18, working many US stations.

Before concluding the DXpedition February 23, the team will provide additional bands when the current activity begins to thin. Frequencies will be announced later. Totten said the team decided to not participate in this weekend's ARRL international DX CW Contest. During openings to North America, E44DX will focus on SSB, particularly 20 and 15, as well as CW on 30, 17, and 12 meters. Right now, E44DX has been running on reduced power (400 W or less) for the most part, Totten says, due to an interference problem with the hotel telephones.

Totten is setting up a "simple" E44DX "DXpedition to Gaza City, Palestine" Web site at http://www.n4gn.com/e44dx/.

Almost a week before E44DX was even authorized, some stations reported working a station identifying as "E4DX" on 40-meter CW. That station appears to have been a pirate.

Continued on page 7

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



MEMBER CLUBS

Alexandria Radio Club

Anne Arundel Radio Club

Antietam Radio Association, Inc.

Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Calvert Amateur Radio Association

Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Society

Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Cheese Hollow Amateur Radio Society

Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Dulles Amateur Radio Group

Frederick Amateur Radio Club

Goddard Amateur Radio Club

Green Mountain Repeater Association

Hanover Area Hamming Association

Historical Electronics Museum

Amateur Radio Club

KB3BOI Repeater Group, Inc.

Laurel Amateur Radio Club

Leisure World Amateur Radio Club

Maryland/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association

Maryland Emergency Phone Net

Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Metropolitan Communications Network

Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.

National Capitol ARES Council

National Capitol DX Association

Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club

Northern Virginia FM Association

Opequon Radio Society

Potomac Valley Radio Club

Prince George's County ARES/RACES

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.

Baltimore Chapter #20

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Vienna Wireless Society

Voice of America Amateur Radio Club

Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.

Palestine formally will be added to the ARRL DXCC List effective October 1, 1999, but contacts made with E4 stations after February 1, will count toward DXCC, QSLs for E44DX go to OH2BN.—thanks to Tim Totten, N4GN.

ARKANSAS HAMS TAKE STOCK OF TORNADO RESPONSE

Members of the North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio Service recently took stock of Amateur Radio's performance when tornadoes struck January 21. For the most part, the club was pleased with its response. "For the first 24 hours," we were it, "Arkansas Section Manager Roger Gray, N5QS, said of Amateur Radio's communication system. Gray, who lives in the stricken area, proposed constructing a permanent emergency net control site in the center of White County. At present, various net control stations operate out of their homes. But in the recent weather disaster, some net control stations were forced to evacuate and leave the air.

After the tornadoes—upwards of three dozen in all—hit the White County area, hams who had been serving as weather spotters moved into the disaster recovery phase. Eight people died in Arkansas, and many others were injured. Damage in the stricken area was widespread. Ham stations were established at two Red Cross shelters and at the police station in the badly damaged town of Beebe, Salvation Army teams from Little Rock and Jonesboro integrated ham gear into their feeding stations in Beebe and McRae. "Over the course of the net, the stations handled untold numbers of Red Cross messages and probably 50 to 100 health-and-welfare messages," Gray said.

Gray himself got climbing duty when a group of amateurs made repairs January 24 to the Beebe Ambulance base station antenna, located atop a water tower. Hams also worked with cleanup crews. Formal nets ended on January 27.

"The hams of this area have been great and bounced right back," Gray said. Hams even managed to participate in the School Club Roundup February 8-13 from the McRae High School gymnasium. "Almost every student we talked to remembered one of their teachers [Larry Sicks, AC5AV, a math teacher at the school] sitting in the lobby all day talking on the radio, and it gave them another perspective of our hobby."

Among Gray's "lessons learned" was a suggestion to get local or state governments to issue standardize IDs to those needing access to affected areas, such as ARES/RACES members. He also advises hams to carry a copy of their Amateur Radio license when on emergency or disaster duty.

A newspaper story on ham radio's role in the storm and the club's evaluation appeared 10 in the Searcy Daily Citizen.

SALVATION ARMY CONTINUES COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Three Salvation Army disaster relief teams are helping residents of Armenia and Pereira, Colombia, to recover from the massive earthquake that shook the area last month. According to the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) immediate aid, including meals, vaccinations and clothing, has been provided through a Salvation Army base camp. Salvation Army personnel are networking with other agencies in the region. At the latest count, almost 17,000 people have received assistance from The Salvation Army. A SATERN net on 14,265 MHz has been helping with inquiries about victims.

Casualty figures indicate that the number of dead has risen to 950, and the number of injured has increased to nearly 4,000. Up to 95% of homes were damaged in the city of Armenia, 80% in the municipalities of Barcelona, Calarc and la Tebaida, and 50% in the center of the city of Pereira. The nearest Salvation Army facility is in the town of Ibague, which has suffered less damage.

According to UN and US reports, the security situation in now under control and the rescue phase has officially ended. An estimated 65% of Armenia's population now has normal access to water supply, and 80 percent have electricity. The Salvation Army and several other relief groups have been assigned to assist in census work to discover the most pressing needs.

Food distribution will continue. Reconstruction, sanitation, health and water needs persist and will particularly affect the most vulnerable. There is a great need of psycho-social recovery, especially for children.—Mike Gelski, KBOPVD/SATERN

HAMS FILL TEXAS COMMUNICATION GAP

Red Cross and local emergency officials in East Texas benefited from ham radio in late January during flooding along the Sabine River. The flood gates at the Toledo Bend Reservoir had to be opened under emergency conditions January 29 after heavy rains the previous week north of the lake. The next day, the area downstream of the Toledo Bend Dam—slightly east of the town of Burkeville, Texas, was declared a disaster location. The Red Cross headquarters in Orange, Texas, was notified that many families living below the dam were forced to evacuate due to rising water in the Sabine River.

When the Red Cross mobile units arrived on scene January 31, however, they found that their cell phones and VHF radios would not function, causing a major disruption in the provision of food, blankets, and other disaster air.

Red Cross Manager Tom Martin contacted ARES DEC J. R. Aaron, K5SUB, for help in setting up emergency communication from the affected flood area to the Orange Red Cross headquarters. Aaron then contacted Gene Vanscoy, KA5VMF, Dick Porter, KK5GV, Bill Lexa, WA5LFS, and Paul Clark, W5UHG in the Orange area to assist in relaying information via HF from the affected area to the Red Cross HQ in Orange.

In turn, K5SUB contacted Newton County ED Garland Meredith, K5VY, to activate the Newton County mobile EOC, KD5GBG. The mobile unit arrived at the Red Cross location below the Toledo Bend Dam power generating facility around noon. W5UHG, KA5VMF and KK5GV established HF and VHF links. WA5LFS, manned the HF equipment at the Orange Red Cross headquarters. In all, hams handled 28 formal and 41 informal messages.

Nearly 150 people were evacuated. Authorities reported no serious injures, no fatalities and no one reported missing in the Burkeville area. The relief effort wrapped up February 1.—Garland Meredith, K5VY

IN BRIEF:

SUNSAT launch scrubbed yet again! The launch of a Delta II rocket carrying the SUNSAT, ARGOS, and OERSTED satellites was called off for the ninth time Saturday, February 13, 1999, due to an unexplained glitch that appeared in the telemetry readout of a critical airborne power supply's voltage. Delta II launch team member Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY, notes that this is the second launch delay caused by a hardware problem, the other scrubs all were related to unacceptable high-altitude winds. "We have a recovery plan to change out the suspect packages and launch on the morning of Monday, February 22," Lemmon said. The Delta II has been on the launch pad for more than a month now.

- * QST Cover Plaque Award: Larry Tyree, N6TR, received the January QST Cover Plaque Award for his article, "kid's Day!" Congratulations, Tree!
- * Wisconsin Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day: April 22 will be Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day in Wisconsin. A proclamation has been approved, and there will be a ceremony in March for Gov Tommy Thompson to officially sign the proclamation. The ceremony,

recognizing Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and response, will be in conjunction with the Tornado Awareness Week proclamation.—thanks to Mack Brophy, N9NTB and Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

* Check out the "new" QEX: Can't get enough technical articles and challenging projects? Check out the new QEX! If you would like more technical articles and challenging projects, look for them in QEX. This bimonthly publication (64 pages) offers you more than four times the technical content of a single QST. Ham radio technical experimentation is alive in QEX. In the March/April issue you'll find: vertical antennas—modeling and building a quarter-wave on 160 meters; Remote base operation; homebrewing dream station; better filters for QRP rigs; killer front end; propagation from the edge; 6-meter power; power for

MOSFETs, and much more. Visit http://www.arrl.org/qex/ to see.

* ADI sponsors ham radio testing site: Premier Communications, which makes ADI and Pryme products, has debuted its HamTest.com Web site to help ham radio neophytes study for their Amateur Radio examinations. The site, http:// www.hamtest.com, provides simulated tests, access to all question pools, and a link to the ARRL/VEC home page and the database of upcoming test sessions. Help is available by posting a request in the interactive user forum. Advice from experienced hams is available in the "Elmers Chat Room." Use of advanced features requires a Javaenhanced browser. The site materials are available free to all. For more information, send e-mail to elmer@hamtest.com. The ADI/Pryme site is at http://sss.adi-radio.com.—ADI

MARS REPORT

By Vinny Del Giudice WB2KQG/AFA2MI

Congratulations to Ed Myers, AFA2ZS/W4CTT, of Alexandria, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a MARS affiliate. On Feb. 18, 1949, Ed was appointed MARS director for Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, where was stationed as a first lieutenant in the 2059th Weather Wing. Prior to his appointment, Ed was in charge of the Tinker amateur radio station, W5NEG.

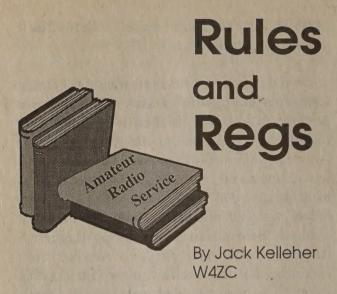
After Ed's appointment, the callsign of the Tinker station was changed to K5AF. Equipment consisted of a Hallicrafters HT-9 transmitter and a National HRO receiver. The antenna, atop the base headquarters building, was a beam. On later assignments, Ed operated from the MARS station at Thule, Greenland and other locations.

Today, Ed is active on MARS HF and VHF packet as well as amateur packet. At the USAF Northern Virginia MARS breakfast in February, he demonstrated a portable packet station for 2

meters. Ed's enthusiasm is contagious! Congratulations Ed.

Are you interested in volunteering with Air Force, Army or Navy-Marine Corps MARS? It's a rewarding experience and helps contribute to the good of our nation. MARS affiliates relay health and welfare messages and set up phone patches for our soldiers, sailors, marine and airmen and their friends and family. MARS volunteers also assist military and civil emergency management agencies by relaying voice and data traffic during natural disasters requiring a federal response. MARS stations spent many hours relaying traffic during last year's wild fires in Florida.

For more information, please drop me a line (my home address is good in the callbook), or e-mail me at vdelgiudice@bloomberg.net. I will hook you up with the MARS service of your choice. 73!



FCC SHUTS DOWN TROUBLESOME BAY AREA REPEATER

The FCC has shut down for 120 days the K7IJ repeater facility on Grizzly Peak in the San Francisco Bay area. The FCC also told the licensee, Bruce Wachtell of Garson City, Nevada, that his ham ticket could be in jeopardy. The FCC took the action by modifying K7IJ's license to prohibit repeater operation starting midnight February 28, 1999. The repeater operates on 145.29, 223.78, 440.175, and 441.175 MHz.

In related actions, the FCC also set aside recent license grants of four individuals accused of unlicensed operation on the repeater prior to obtaining their amateur tickets and other behavior. The cases, the first major VHF/UHF enforcement actions the FCC has taken in recent months, were brought to the Commission's attention by the Amateur Auxiliary.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said that for almost a year, the repeater's control operator, identified as Blake B. Jenkins, N6YSA, of Berkeley, California, 'has apparently not only allowed, but encouraged, use of the repeater by unlicensed operators, rebroadcast of cordless telephone calls, playing of music, and profanity and obscenity.' He said extended QSOs have taken place between the control operator and unlicensed

stations.

TEXAS HAMS MOUNT PRB-1 EFFORT (From ARRL Ltr v18 #9, 2/26/99)

At the request of radio amateurs, a bill was introduced in the Texas House of Representatives to incorporate the essence of the limited federal preemption, PRB-1, into state law. The measure, HB 1345, was introduced by State Rep Patricia Gray at the request of Karl Silverman, NOWWK. Silverman is president of the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club.

The bill would amend the Local Government Code in Texas to prevent local jurisdictions from enacting or enforcing ordinances that fail to comply with PRB-1. The bill further would require ordinances dealing with Amateur Radio antenna placement, screening, or height based on health, safety or aesthetics to "reasonably accommodate amateur communications" and "represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's or county's legitimate purpose."

A hearing on the bill before the Land and Resource Management Committee is set for March 1. Silverman is scheduled to speak on behalf of the bill, and other speakers also might have an opportunity as well.

HAMS STILL ON HOLD FOR ULS (from ARRLItr v18 #9, 2/26/99)

While the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau began using the Universal Licensing System (ULS) February 16, hams remain in a holding pattern on ULS until the FCC establishes a ULS Amateur Service database. That's not expected to happen until later this year. This means that hams still must use Form 610 and its variations. These so-called "pre-ULS forms" are valid until further notice. On-line services are limited to Form 900 renewals within 120 days of expiration and Form 610V vanity call sign application. License modifications are not yet available on-line unless

done at the same time as a renewal.

The ULS is a new, interactive licensing database that consolidates and replaces 11 existing databases and licensing systems, including the Amateur Service. Among other things, it will replace the venerable FCC Form 610 series with a new Form 605 and provide on-line filing, modification, and renewal for amateurs.

In January, the ARRL petitioned the FCC for minor alterations to the ULS rules. The League said it wants the FCC to continue to issue paper license documents; to come up with a way for applicants not having a Taxpayer Identification Number—typically a Social Security Number—to meet ULS requirements to provide one; and to include on Form 605 a section for Volunteer Examiners to certify that an applicant has met the requirements for a new or upgraded ham ticket.

The FCC subsequently did make provisions to assign TINs to those doing business with the Commission who have no legal way to obtain one. The "assigned" TINs will consist of the letter "A" followed by eight digits. They will not be available to those eligible to hold a Social Security Number. Alien licensees needing an assigned TIN should contact FCC Technical Support at 202-424-1250. Prior to its latest filing, the ARRL had expressed concerns that the FCC might do away with paper license documents altogether and rely instead on the "license grant"—the virtual document that resides within the FCC's computerized amateur database. The League pointed out in its January petition that some states regulate possession of scanning receivers but exempt amateurs, and inability to produce a license document could result in "arrest and criminal prosecution as well as seizure of equipment by local law enforcement." The League said hams operating overseas also often must produce a paper document. The ARRL noted that the CEPT agreement requires US hams traveling in CEPT countries to possess a US government-issued license document and that ITU regulations "appear to require" a governmentissued license document.

CHARGES DISMISSED IN GODSEY CASE (ARRL ltr v18, #9 2/26/99)

It took more than two years, but all charges against a Kentucky ham for impersonating a public servant and disorderly conduct finally were dropped in December. Greg Godsey, KF4BDY, of Hopkinsville, was just shy of his seventeenth birthday when he was arrested by police in his hometown.

At the time of his arrest, Godsey was active in ARES as Christian County EC. He claims the impersonation charge stemmed from his ARES association. Police also had charged Godsey with carrying a scanner capable of receiving police frequencies and confiscated his Radio Shack HTX-202. The scanner charge reportedly was dismissed in court the following month, and his H-T was returned to him. The other charges had remained on the court docket, however.

Godsey, now 19, said the charges were dropped in December after both sides agreed to not sue anybody over the matter. Godsey says he and his family spent more than \$3000 fighting the charges against him.

VANITY UPDATE: (ARRL Ltr v18 #9 2/26/99)

The FCC office in Gettysburg reports it has processed vanity call sign applications received through February 1. On February 23, the FCC granted 168 applications; another 164 landed in the work-in-process (WIPs) stack and have been processed.

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO DO DAYTON (From ARRL Ltr vol 18 #9 2/26/99)

The FCC's top Amateur Radio enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will put in an appearance at this year's Dayton Hamvention. Hollingsworth is scheduled to address enforcement issues at FCC forums on Friday and Sunday at this year's event,

scheduled for May 14-16. He'll also address the 3865 Drake and Antique Radio Tube Net Group forum Saturday morning (10:45-11:45 AM, Room 3), moderated by Don Spillman, W8NS. (Other speakers at the Drake forum include Sindre Torp, LA6OP, and Drake Service Manager Bill Frost, WD8DFP).—thanks to Steve Morgan, K8FFO

CW NOW OFFICIALLY DEAD IN MARITIME RADIO (From ARN 1121 2/05/99)

Morse code officially went the way of its old spark gap transmitters on Monday, February 1st for most ships in distress at sea. Newslines Robert Sudock, WB6FDF, reports on CW leaving the high seas:

It was just about 100 years ago that a radio message first initiated a rescue at sea. According to the International Maritime Organization, the first emergency call by wireless came from a lightship when its crew saw the steamship Elbe run aground off the coast of Dover, England.

It was a bit later that the "SOS" emergency call came into common usage. The International Maritime Organization says that the SOS signal was adopted at a conference convened three months after the Titanic sank in 1912. The particular three letters, SOS, were chosen for one reason and one reason only: the letters were easily recognized. Three dots, three dashes, and three dots. The IMO dispels as myth the common belief that SOS stood for save our souls.

But CW is now a "mode of the past" on the high seas. A new satellite system displaced Morse. Use of the system is mandatory for all international freighters weighing more than 300 gross tons, all passenger vessels and for self-propelled oil drilling units. Only coastal freighters, most fishing boats and pleasure craft are exempt.

The new orbital-based maritime distress system works by beaming distress calls directly to an

Inmarsat satellite. The satellite then relays the alert to one of four rescue-coordinating centers. These facilities are located in Australia, England, Germany and the Western United States. The rescue craft or other vessels closest to the stricken ship are notified within minutes, speeding life saving assistance on its way.

The International Maritime Organization had set February 1st as its target date to replace CW with the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. To a great extent that deadline has been met. Or, as one British news writer put it, "The IMO has finally buried the Morse code at sea. Backers of the system say that it is so accurate that it can pinpoint the exact location of a ship signaling for help to within a hundred yards.

A WARNING FROM THE FCC (ARN 1121 2/5/99)

The FCC's enforcement arm continues to reach out against those hams the regulatory agency views as violating its Amateur Service rules. This as the agency issues a stern warning to a ham — who they say — has been using the amateur airwaves to transmitting information about other radio amateurs.

The Commission says that the transmissions includes credit reports, criminal records, and mortgage foreclosures. And in its letter to the unidentified Florida ham, the FCC alleges that he made these disclosures for the purpose of deliberately and maliciously interfering with other licensed radio amateurs.

The letter calls the alleged operation as contrary to the very basis and purpose of Amateur Radio as outlined in the Amateur Service rules and in international treaties. The FCC also says that these kinds of broadcasts endanger Amateur Radio frequency allocations world wide.

NO MORE HELP NEEDED (ARN 1121 2/5/99)

The ARRL says that it does not need any more help in proofing the viability of the 5 MHz band. In response to inquiries about the societies' recently granted Experimental Radio Service license the League has been requested by FCC staff to advise that no additional participants are being sought at this time.

The FCC issued the Experimental Radio Service license to the ARRL to permit two-way tests in the vicinity of 5 MHZ. This is the most likely site of the next amateur HF band.

Fifteen currently licensed amateur operators in various parts of the United States and the Caribbean will conduct experimental, two-way RTTY.

WIRELESS PRIVACY BILL REINTRODUCED (ARRL Ltr v18, #7, 2/12/99)

The Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1999, HR514, has been introduced by Rep Heather Wilson of New Mexico. The measure is aimed at amending the Communications Act of 1934 "to strengthen and clarify prohibitions on electronic eavesdropping, and for other purposes."

"HR514 is identical to the amended version of HR2369 that passed the House on a 414-to-1 vote during the last session," said ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA. The Senate did not act on that measure.

The original bill, HR2369, would have banned most types of scanners and scanner listening; however, the bill's sponsor, Rep Billy Tauzin, worked with the ARRL and representatives of

manufacturers, public service organizations, and scanner enthusiasts to redraft the bill top to bottom. HR514 forbids manufacturing or modifying scanners to receive cellular, PCS, or "protected" paging service frequencies. The bill also forbids receiving, divulging, publicizing, or utilizing such communication. The measure is part of a package of legislation introduced early in the session in the expectation that it will pass quickly and help restore Congressional momentum. Mansfield says, however, that the Senate prospects for HR514 remain murky.

While Amateur Radio appears to be unaffected by the new bill, the League is on record as opposing the expansion of prohibitions on radio monitoring beyond those that now exist to protect the privacy of services that interface with wireline networks. The bipartisan list of co-sponsors of HR514 includes Reps Tauzin of Louisiana; Markey of Massachusetts; Oxley of Ohio; Eshoo and Rogan of California; Deal of Georgia; Wynn of Maryland; Cubin of Wyoming; Luther of Minnesota; Sawyer and Gillmor of Ohio; and Pickering of Mississippi. A copy of the bill is available on the Web at http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:h.r.514:.

FCC CITES ILLEGAL HF BROADCASTERS (ARRL LTR V18, #7, 2/12/99)

The FCC has sent violation notices to two hams who—the FCC alleges—had used their stations to engage in illegal shortwave broadcasting on 6955 kHz. The FCC also released the names of two nonhams notified last fall in the wake of similar, alleged operations. Cited were Henry L. Landsberg, WB6MEU, of Sierra Madre, California; Richard F. Jurrens, KC5RGK, of Katy, Texas; Roger R. Hanna, of Glendale, Illinois; and Christopher R. Lobdell, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm

The URL for the ARRL Atlantic Division has recently changed. Please update your bookmarks!



PALESTINE, E4, NEW DXCC COUNTRY

I knew that it was coming back in October of 1998 because it was voted at the ITU conference in Minnesota to give Palestine a radio callsign allocation. Under the new DXCC rules, Political Entities, Rule 1(b) states that if the entity has been assigned a callsign prefix block by the ITU, it will be added to the DXCC List. On February 1, 1999, in ITU Operational Bulletin No. 685, the ITU has allocated the callsign block E4 for use by Palestine. This is in accordance with the Resolution PLEN/3 of the Plenipotentiary Conference that was held in Minnesota in 1998.

The DXCC desk received a copy of this announcement in early February and it will be added to the DXCC List on October 1, 1999. However contacts made with properly licensed stations in Palestine (E4) after February 1, 1999 will count for this new entity. Under DXCC rules, contacts with the deleted entity of Palestine made prior to June 30, 1968 do not count for this entity. There is no commonality of territory or administration.

Needless to say, amateurs from several parts of the world wasted no time in going to Palestine to operate. The first to show up on the bands was E44A and E44C. For a while, it was chaotic due to the fact that these operators were not skilled in large pile up management. Every amateur in the world who was into DXing needed this new one. Several days later, Bernie, W3UR; Martti, OH2BH and two other Finnish amateurs were on the air with the call, E44DX. They had several stations on the air at once and with all of the four operators being

able to handle the large pile ups started to work many stations very quickly. After several days, things settled down and the QSO total went up very fast. They were active on all bands from 160 to 10 meters. I did not hear about any 6 meter operation but that will come when the time is right. From what I have heard, the highlight of the DXpedition was their meeting with Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Several days later, two Japanese amateurs appeared on the bands signing E4/JAIUT and E44/ JA8RUZ. About the same time, several Hungarian operators were on using the call, E44/HA1AG. They were mostly on CW. Then later on, E41/ OKIDTP appeared on the bands. By now, I am sure that anyone who wanted to log this new entity has done so by now and on several bands and modes. I am sure there will be much more activity from there as time goes on. Hopefully in a few years, it will be workable from the US on six meters. I am sure there will many articles on this DX event in the DX press and many slide presentations at Dayton and other major ARRL conventions around the country this year. With articles in the news about the possibility of East Timor becoming independent, we might get the chance to have all of this fun and excitement again.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

EA RTTY Contest April 3-4
SP DX Contest April 3-4
Japan Int'l DX Contest (High Band) April 9-11
European Spring Sprint Contest April 17
Holyland DX Contest April 17-18
Helvetia (Ha9) Contest April 24-25

TIDBITS

Ed Tanton, N4XY has taken over the QSL duties of WA4VDE, who became a Silent Key. Bill, WA4VDE managed QSLs for about 15 DX stations. Once Ed gets it all sorted out, he will let the DX community know the complete list of stations involved.

Paul Smith, AHOW of the Midway-Kure DX Foundation has announced the details for their upcoming 1999, Rodriguez, 389 DXpedition. It will take place from April 1 to April 10, 1999. The team will have nine operators from five countries and the operation will be on all bands, phone, CW and RTTY. They will also will operate six meters. The QSL manager will be N7LVO, Joyce Johnson. The callsign will be announced at a later date. Inquires about the DXpedition can be addressed to mkdxfaaztec.asu.edu.

The elusive Henri, aka FR5ZQ/T on Tromelin has been active but hard to work. He has been reported on 40 through 10 meters but he does not stay in any one place very long. As soon as the pile up gets big, he slips away and may or may not reappear somewhere else. I need him on 40 and 17 meters but by the time I see a packet spot on these bands for him, he is long gone. I do not know what it is but working these French Islands in the Indian Ocean is very difficult. The activity from there is spotty at best.

Tickets are now available for the DX Dinner at Dayton. It will be at the same place as last year, the Crowne Plaza Hotel on May 14, Friday at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$31.00 and the tickets can be purchased from NH7C, Steve Caeser.

Some DX rumors indicate that G4VFU/VP8CZJ will be operating from South Sandwich Island later on in 1999 and another operation is rumored to be planned for West Kiribati and Banaba later this year.

I am sure most everyone has heard the sad news about the passing of King Hussein, JYl on February 7, 1999. He was a real guiding light for Amateur Radio in his country and in the Middle East. Many years ago, when he was more active, I had the pleasure to work both him and his first wife. He was JYl and she was JY2. I have both of their QSLs and they are now priceless. I also worked the King when he was signing JY25 for a special event in Jordan.

SPRINGFEST OUTDOOR AMATEUR RADIO TAILGATE HAMFEST

April 24, 1999, Chesapeake, Virginia. Annual Springfest, Outdoor Amateur Radio Tailgate Hamfest and get together, sponsored by Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service. Located at the OLD GERTIE SCHOOL HOUSE - Ballahack Road & Bunch Walnuts Road, in southern Chesapeake, between Route 17 and Route 168.

Admission and Tailgate space for the same price, \$5.00. Tailgate setup is between 5:30 AM and 7:30 AM. General Admission at 8:00 AM, last Door Price Drawing to be at 12:00 Noon. Talk-in on 146.610-600 WA4YSE repeater or 146.970-600 WA4KXV repeater. No electricity or tables bring your own.

Additional Information or advance tickets contact Jim, KF4RQQ or via mail to CARS, P.O. Box 2035, Chesapeake, Virginia 23324. Listed by K4WYS (emailwrhood@exis.net)

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc. Annual Scholarship Awards



THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1999-2000 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds ten of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-six (56) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1999 from:

FAR scholarships Post Office Box 831 Riverdale, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Beware when you renew your license on-line!

The FCC web page now has the means to renew your Amateur License electronically! It looked to good to be true- and it is... Go to the http://www.fcc.gov web page and follow the links to Electronic Form 900 which includes Form 610R, Amateur Radio License Renewal. You must be within 90 days of your expiration date, or the system will tell you that you are renewing too soon.

Beware! You are asked for your Social Security

Number on the renewal form. THERE IS NO PROTECTION OF YOUR SSN WHILE IT IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE FCC!!!!!! It is not encrypted and can be seen with simple network equipment. It is sent as plain text. I have downloaded their web page and examined it for protection. You guessed it-none!

If this is a concern to you (and it should be!), you can always apply by mail with Form 610R, and a 33 cent stamp.

73 - Al, NW2M

New Skywarn Patch Available



In an effort to recognize the volunteer services afforded by our many SKYWARN trained spotters in this area, a volunteer member of the SKYWARN Advisory Committee of the National Weather Service Baltimore-Washington Forecast Office, Jerry Bricker (N3IOU) designed a new circular SKYWARN patch. This three inch, 100% embroidered patch includes the familiar eye ball vision of an approaching tornado funnel, and adds "NWS" at the top to highlight the National Weather Service (NWS). The word "SKYWARN" has been converted to a curved rocker format and placed across the bottom. The patch design was reviewed and approved by the members of the SKYWARN Advisory Committee to the NWS Baltimore-Washington Forecast Office. The patch design was then copyrighted through the legal assistance of Daniel R. Gropper, Esq. (KC4OCG), one of the Assistant SKYWARN coordinators.

The Maryland State Council of REACT Teams, Inc. (MSCRT), in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between the NWS and REACT International, is offering this patch to all SKYWARN trained spotters. All proceeds above

cost recovery will go to the MSCRT to further their public service activities including SKYWARN promotion and training.

The Council is offering the patches at \$3.00 each (includes all mailing and packaging costs) for up to four patches. The cost drops to \$2.75 per patch when five or more patches are ordered together. Make check or money order out to "MSCRT Patches" and mail your order to: MSCRT Patches, 6000 Cable Ave., Suitland, Maryland 20746-3824. Orders with money orders, certified, or bank checks will be shipped within a week, please allow three to four weeks for shipments ordered with personal checks.

These patches look especially nice on either all black or white baseball caps. Because of the predominance of black thread in the patch, the use of chlorine bleach is not recommended.

Show your pride in being an active SKYWARN spotter by wearing this new patch. Help us in advertising this vital NWS program and recruiting more active amateur Spotters.

Do you have a nomination for FAR's Ham of the Month?

Any licensed amateur radio operator in the *Auto-Call* subscription area who has contributed significantly to the amateur community can be nominated. Provide a narrative of 250 to 500 words describing the contributions of the nominee and forward to the FAR Ham of the Month nomination chairman, Tony Young, WA3YLO, at 12016 Long Ridge Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

FAR Meeting Minutes

Februry 10, 1999 Takoma Park, MD



The meeting was called to order at 8:08 PM on February 10, 1999 at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland by President Chuck Sommer/N4OSD.

There were 12 representatives representing 16 clubs, Those in attendance where:

Donald Kirby, KR3A, Calvert ARA
Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY, Laurel ARC/GMRA
Hugh Katz, KB3TB, Voice of America ARC
Chuck Sommer, N4OSD, PG RACES/ARES
Tim Titus, W1TRT, Columbia ARA
W. Page Pyne, WA3EOP,

Antietam RA/Cheese Hollow ARS
Jim Headrick, W3CP, PVRC/NRLARC
Ed Mumford, N3IRO, Frederick ARC
Mildred Mumford, N3KGQ, Frederick ARC
John Sleeman, N3FXC, WAARC
Jerry Gavin, NU3D, Maryland Mobileers
Mary Morris, N4TCI, Mount Vernon ARC
Hugh O Donnell, N3FUO, Goddard ARC
Jim Tilton, KD3JA, Central Maryland ARC

Secretary s Report - The minutes for January were approved with no corrections. Dan Blasberg/KA8YPY announced that he had received approximately 20 update sheets for the 1999 year. He further stated that after February 28, 1999, those clubs that he has not received an update sheet from would be dropped from the rolls as an active club. This would entail removing the club from the FAR web site, the club listing in Auto-Call and not accepting any club columns for Auto-Call.

The Treasure s report was not given as Charles Johnson/N3HFO was not in attendance.

Auto Call - There was no report as Tony Young/ WA3YLO was not in attendance.

Survivors Assistance - There was no report as Tony Young/WA3YLO was not in attendance.

Scholarship - Hugh O Donnell/W3FUO presented the report in the absence of Hugh Turnbull/W3ABC. All but one of the scholarship sponsors has provided their funds. Applications still continue to come in.

ARRL Report - There was no report as Hugh Turnbull/W3ABC was not in attendance.

FARFEST - All Bills have been paid, there was no final tally as Charles Johnson/N3HFO was not in attendance. The next meeting of the FARFest committee will be held at the home of Chuck Sommer/N4OSD on Wednesday March 3,1999.

Old Business

Web Page - Dan Blasberg/KA8YPY announced that there have been some minor format changes. The forms for the club application/update and Auto-Call subscription are now online. There are still some bugs to be worked out with those. Dan also announced plans to add pages for survivor s assistance, VE exam schedule, hamfest schedule and a page for clubs with special events and classes. Duval High School - Hugh O Donnell/W3FUO reported that the principal has submitted two work orders to have the antennas installed at the school. All coax, insulators, and guy lines are in place.

New Business

A nominating committee was formed for nomination for officers. Dan Blasberg/KA8YPY volunteered to head the committee. Any nominations for any position may be e-mailed to Dan at Blasberg@Bellatlantic.net or mailed to him at his postal address of 1700 17th St. NW #603, Washington, DC 20009. The Slate of officers will be presented at the at the March meeting with voting at the April meeting.

New Representatives

Opequon RS - Fred Freeland/W8GSN and

Edward Pine/KA8YLE were approved as new FAR Representatives.

Central Maryland ARC - James Tilton/KD3JA was approved as a new FAR Representative.

Announcements

Page Pyne/WA3EOP read an e-mail from Al Brown/KZ3AB with a on air sched during his trip to the Caribbean.

Hamfests:

Frostfest February 28, 1999

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on March 10, 1999 at the Lee Center in Alexandria, VA Respectfully submitted,

Dan Blasberg
KA8YPY
FAR Recordings Secretary

FCC Grants AMRAD Experimental License

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted a one-year experimental license to the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) to conduct tests on the frequency 136.75 kHz using the call sign WA2XTF from twelve sites in Northern Virginia. These experiments are to gain experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate the low-frequency (LF) band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service in the United States. This band already exists in New Zealand and some European countries in accordance with Recommendation CEPT/ERC/REC 62-01. CEPT is the abbreviation for the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.

Participating in the experimental operation are: Glenn Baumgartner, KAØESA; David Borden, K8MMO; Robert Bruhns, WA3WDR; Hal Feinstein, WB3KDU; Terry Fox, WB4JFI; André Kesteloot, N4ICK; George Lemaster, WB5OYP; Shannon Mishey, N8TBM; Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; David Rogers, K9RKH; Elton Sanders, WB5MMB; and John Seely, AA4GM. This is a closed list of stations and new transmitting stations cannot be added. However, others are invited to join the project by listening and reporting results. Reception reports should be made by e-mail to n4ick@amrad.org.

Emissions authorized for these tests are 173HF1D (frequency shift data, 173 Hz bandwidth), 100HA1A (CW, 100 Hz bandwidth) and 450F1D (frequency shift data, 450 Hz bandwidth.) The authorized transmitted power is 1 watt ERP. The 12 stations will operate experimental transmitters, antennas and receiving systems using digital signal processing (DSP) techniques.

On October 22, 1998, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) petitioned the FCC to create two LF allocations for the Amateur Radio Service: 135.7 - 137.8 kHz and 160 - 190 kHz limited to 200 watts PEP but in no case greater than 2 watts EIRP. The petition was designated RM-9404. Additional information is available at the ARRL Web site: www.arrl.org under ARLB095 ARRL Petitions FCC for LF Allocations.

AMRAD is a worldwide club of Amateur Radio and computer experimenters. It is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) scientific and educational organization. Further information concerning these LF experiments will be available in the AMRAD Newsletter mailed bi-monthly to AMRAD members and on the World Wide Web at: www.amrad.org.



Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A 6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310 (703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	HAM-TALK, BARC Voice Mail	(410) HAM-TALK x3835
Central MD ARC	Jim Tilton KD3JA	(301) 552-0012
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARA	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Historical Electronics ARC	Rol Anders K3RA	(410) 796-4792
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Fred Wetzel W4KRT	(540) 678-0394
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM	(703) 691-2719
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.





Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A 6111 Burnett St. Alexandria, VA, 22310 (703) 971-3905

* Volunteer Examiners may refuse to test any applicant who fails to demonstrate to the VE's satisfaction that the memories in the applicant's calculator are empty. If you bring a calculator to an exam, please be prepared to demonstrate that your memories are empty.

* Effective January 1, 1999, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.49.

1999 Schedule of Examinations

April 1 (Thursday)

Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com.

April 4 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

April 10 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In. New Location This Month Only - Call for Directions. Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905 Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

Cumberland, MD - (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

MARYLAND HAMFEST



COMPUTER FEST



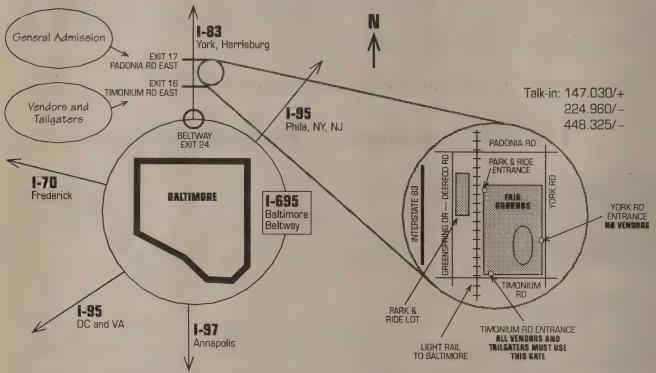
SPONSORED BY

THE BALTIMORE RADIO AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1999

TIMONIUM FAIRGROUNDS, YORK ROAD OFF I-695, I-83

ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED KIDS UNDER 12 FREE



- Prizes Giant flea market Computers
- Good Food Refreshments Air Conditioned
 - · Indoor/outdoor exhibit areas · Rain or shine
- 600 Tailgating spaces (first come first served, no reservations)

FREE VE EXAMS AT 9 AM ONLY, CHECK-IN AT 8:30 AM PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED, CALL (410) 461-0086

Buildings open Sunday at 8 AM

Tables Available

For info, table reservations, and VE exam pre-registration contact BRATS/PO Box 5915/Baltimore, MD 21282 (410) 461-0086 voice or fax

http://www.smart.net/~brats • e-mail brats@smart.net

W3CWC The Antietam Radio Association

Presents

The Great Hagerstown Hamfest

and Computer Show* SUNDAY, MAY 2nd, 1999

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Hagerstown Community College Athletic and Recreation Building Hagerstown, Maryland

PENNSYLVANIA







Admission: \$5.00 per person (children under 12 free)

- Breakfast and lunch will be served on site
- Seminar by Valley Amateur Society
- Paved Level Lots-...No Mud...No Dust-for tailgaters
- Large indoor vendor facility
- Tailgating \$5.00 per space for vendors and tailgaters
- ♦ Over \$1,000 in prizes
- ♦ V.E. sessions on site
- ◆ Table price 1-8 \$15.00 ea; over 9 \$10.00 ea
- ◆ Talk-in frequency: 147.090 + Repeater ARA Club

Hamfest Contact Information and Vendor Registration:

KB8ZQM Tina Jones Chairman (304) 728-7769
KB8WHW Donald Jones CoChairman (304) 728-7769
Club Fax Line (304) 728-3024 24 hours/day
Email kb8zqm@intrepid.net
Club Homepage URL http://www.erols.com/rjlong61/ara

Directions to the Great Hagerstown Hamfest

From Interstate 70, take exit 32B to Edgewood Drive. At Home Federal Bank, turn right. The College entrance is located approximately 1.4 miles on the left. There will be plenty of signs.

HAMFEST/COMPUTERFEST Electronics Fleamarket

Sponsored by:
Anne Arundel Radio Club (AARC)
and
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club (KIARC)

When: Saturday May 1, 1999

Where: Grasonville, MD VFW Grounds

Time: 0800-1500 (Open at 0600 for Tailgate and Vendor

Setup)

Donation: \$4, Tail Gate free to Licensed HAMS

Indoor Tables Also available

Info: tonyy@juno.com; w2kbr@toad.net;

K3ORC@amsat.org; pvtpilot@friend.ly.net Information also available on the 147.105 repeater and the AARC Web

Page at: HTTP://home.att.net/~n3szw/aarc.html

QLF (left foot CW) Contest!

Breakfast and Lunch Provided by VFW Auxiliary





Talk-in Repeaters: 147.105 or 146.94 (also check out 448.225, pl-114.8)
73, See You There!

The Maryland FM Association, Inc. proudly presents its annual

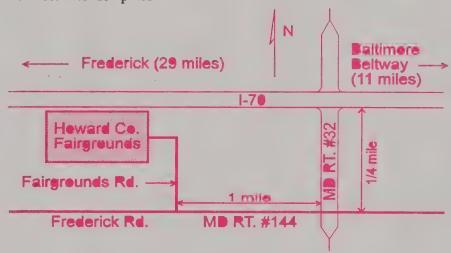
Memorial Day Hamfest Sunday, May 30, 1999

at the Howard County Fair Grounds Rt. #144, West Friendship, Maryland

Time: 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. - premises MUST be cleared by 5 p.m.

TALK-IN on WA3DZD/R Repeater (146.16/146.76, 223.16/224.76, and 449.0/444.0).

Plenty of good food and drink will be available. Supplied by the West Friendship 4H Sorry, no private sale of food or drink permitted!



DONATION: \$5 Tailgaters - \$5 per space

Table rentals (inside): Paid in advance \$20 At the Hamfest - \$25

Only PAID table reservations accepted. If you haven't paid, you don't have reservations

For advanced reservations and information

FSARC, Inc.

PO Box 19

Annapolis Junction, Md. 20701-0019

Phone - Craig @ 410-987-6042

Make checks payable to MFMA, Inc.

e-mail - K3HH@compuserve.com

All proceeds will be used for amateur-Radio-related purposes.

Commercial vendors must have proper tax/license certificates available.

All items offered for sale must be Amateur Radio related.

April 11 (Sunday)

Middletown, VA - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC)

Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

April 17 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)

Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In

Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC)
Walk-In

Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-0572

April 25 (Sunday)

Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact: George Carpenter N3QFS (301)842-3130 Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132

May 2 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In

Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

May 8 (Saturday)

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905,Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

May 15 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

May 26 (Wed.)

Winchester, VA - Shenandoah Valley ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In Contact: Fred Wetzel W4KR (540)678-0394 Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

June 3 (Thursday)

Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

June 6 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

June 12 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905. Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

Cumberland, MD - (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW. (301)724-0674

June 13 (Sunday) Middletown, VA - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration
Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792
kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117
arm@visuallink.com

June 19 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

July 1 (Thursday)

April 1999

Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

July 10 (Saturday) **Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905 Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

July 14 (Wed.)

Winchester, VA - Shenandoah Valley ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In, Contact: Fred Wetzel W4KR (540)678-0394 Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

July 17 (Saturday) Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact:
John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-0572

July 25 (Sunday)

Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact: George Carpenter N3QFS (301)842-3130. Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132

August 14 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905. Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

Cumberland, MD - (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

August 21 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In

Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

EXAM FEES:

- * Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- * ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.45
- * Laurel VEC exams are free
- * W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.45

BRING TO EXAM:

- * Picture identification
- * Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- * Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- * Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- * Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

"GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

- 1. All submissions must be in writing
- 2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
- 3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
- 4. Sponsor and location must be specified
- 5. VEC must be specified
- 6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
- 7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)



Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at IE Shop #3 of Dulaney Senior High School at 7:30 pm. -First Wednesday of the month business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

Club Net: 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays at 6:45 PM or after the Baltimore Traffic Net on 146.67/224.24 repeaters.

NTS Net: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/ 224,240

Information: (410) HAMTALK

Greater Baltimore Hamboree Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

Club Address: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120,

Reisterstown MD 21136

Internet Address: http://www.baltarc.com E-Mail Address: info@baltarc.com

We had the 28th Annual Hamboree the last weekend in March. Our thanks to all that came, we hope you had a great time again this year. We wish to thank the following individuals for all their many hours of hard work:

Al Smith, N3KA -Talk-In Chairman Val Purvis, W3VAL -Commercial Vendor Chairman Stan Siuta, AA3DR -Commercial Vendor Chairman Gary Scheffler, N3WRF -Commercial Vendor Chairman

John Lynch, N3ZNU -

Indoor Flea Market Chairman Jack Mory, KE3WV -

Indoor Flea Market Chairman

Sharon Dobson, N3QQC -Hamboree Chairperson Patricia Dobson. Youth Liaison

Vikki Gigante-Huber, KA3PVS -Convention Co-Chairperson

Jim Green, WB3DJU -Chief Financial Officer

Bill Dobson, N3WD -Advertising Chairman

Dave Goodman, KA3JRM -Transit -N-Traffic

John Klim, N3KHK -

Convention Staff

Dave Gossard, N3DRL -Convention Staff

Hale Adams, N3NYC -

Timonium Road Gate Chairman

Chuck Reville, K3FT -

York Road Gate Chairman

Jim Georges, WA3RYT -

York Road Gate Co-Chairman

Tom Connor, N3VOO -

Indoor Tailgate Co-Chairman

Dave Goldberg, N3ZQN -

Indoor Tailgate Co-Chairman

Andy Boyle, N3JYO -

Outdoor Tailgate Chairman

Brad Provenza -

Human Resources

Ted Provenza, W3OWN -

Guest Services

Doug Wittich, N3VEJ -

Timonium Road Gate Chairman

Steve Chan, N3JLB -

Park-N-Ride Gate Chairman

Jim Schmidt, N3FFB -

Operations Specialist

Carroll Van Ness, K3HZU -

Operations Specialist

Maurice Cahill, KA3EJJ -

Transit and Traffic Chairman

Dave Hahn, N3CNJ -

Transit and Traffic Chairman

Ron Long, N3EKO -

Transit and Traffic Chairman

Pat Long, N3HGE -

Transit and Traffic Chairman

We would be remiss, if we didn't thank all of those workers who helped the days of the event.

Our next "outing" is field day, which is in the planning stages and looks to be another good event. We hope to have the same cook again this year.

That's it from Baltimore 73's de W3VAL Val Purvis Corresponding Secretary



Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Club meeting: Every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church on Bethany Lane in Ellicott City. Monitor net repeater for directions.

Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92). Net Repeater. PL control of 156.7. 147.990/147.390. Open autopatch and direct dial 911. 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135). 443.275/448.275 PL control of 156.7. 444.475/449.475. Autopatch & 911.

Mailing: Columbia Amateur Radio Assoc. (CARA), Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044.

Web Page: http://www.qsi.net/cara/

Activities: CARA breakfast: 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month at Jilly's Restaurant in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center on Rte. 40. Contact Bob/KC3EV by 6:00 p.m. the day before the breakfast.

Information: Bob/KC3EV, 410-465-2421

Delayed Move

CARA had planned to have the new 147.390 machine moved to the new tower at I-95 and MD100 in January, but alas, we have been delayed. We are working with Howard County to deploy our repeater, but the old maintenance contract for county emergency communications is still in negotiation. Until that contract is in place, CARA will continue to operate the 39 machine with

autopatch from its old location at Harper House (formerly Abbott House). We now plan to make the move sometime this summer.

Events Planning

We are busy with planning our 1999 activities. Field Day has always been an important event for CARA, and we will operate again from the Clarksville Elementary School. The last two years we have used a balloon plus towers for 15/20/40/ 80 meters, and I'suspect that we will do the same this year. Our pledge is to make this a fun event for the whole club and to involve as many as we can during the weekend. We are going to try something new for the Maryland QSO party in August. Along with a base operation from the school, we will also deploy several mobile units to fan out across the state. Alan, N3AC, who leads our field operations, did this several years ago with great success, so we thought we'd try it again. Our major event for the year is the CARA Hamfest. We will be at the Howard County Fairgrounds again this year on October 10, 1999. It's not too early to mark your calendars so you can stock up on items you'll need for those winter projects in your shack.

73 de Tim/W1TRT



Dulles Amateur Radio Group

On-the-air meeting: Tuesdays at 8:00pm on

the Dulles repeater

Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310- (near Dulles

airport)

Mail: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box

5073, Herndon, VA 20172-1964 Home Page: www.darg.org.

Email: darg@darg.org.

Club callsign: W4DLS

Information: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-

450-2304.

I know what you've been thinking. It's been quiet here at DARG for too long. We're still trying to determine a date and location for the next examination session. Things haven't been going well for the antenna installation atop the Loudoun Hospital Center: there's nothing new to report on that topic. And don't even ask about how the 440 MHz repeater planning is going.

The last time I checked, the guys that run DARG.Org barely had a pulse.

Levittown, the hula-hoop and John Foster Dulles

Just when you think nothing has happened around here since midway through the Eisenhower administration, along comes DARG's Annual All-Hands meeting.

On Sunday, April 25th, 1999, DARG is hosting its annual membership meeting, as mandated in its charter. During the course of the meeting, the membership of the Dulles Amateur Radio Group will nominate and elect the Board of Trustees who will serve DARG through the last half of 1999 and into the new century. The importance of this assembly cannot be over stressed. If you are concerned about our direction or velocity, here's your chance to alter course.

The current DARG trustees will report on their activities for the year; but remember, there's no reason that you can't contact them at any time and ask for an update.

So here are the particulars: The DARG Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 25th, 1999 at the Eastern Loudoun Regional Library, Sterling (Cascades) Meeting Room B, beginning at 2:00 PM.

The agenda goes like this: 2:00 - 3:00 PM: Current DARG Trustees report on activities during the current term. 3:00 - 3:30 PM: Nominations for Trustee positions for the new term. 3:30 - 4:00 PM: Elections of new Trustees.

Trustees elected will serve from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

Determine what you want out of DARG, and set course into the future. That's our story, and we're sticking with it.

Any new information about the meeting will be posted on http://www.darg.org along with maps and directions to the meeting site, and announced on the Tuesday Evening Net. We hold the net each Tuesday at 8:00 PM local time (of course it's Wednesday throughout much of the world, but we've chosen to ignore that controversy).

There is a rumor circulating that we will suffer a surprise appearance by Buffo, "The World's Strongest Clown" (http://www.buffo.com). It's simply not true.

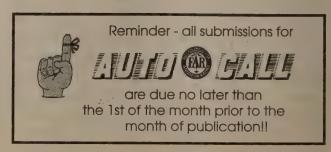
Field Day, 1999

Yeah, WHAT ABOUT Field Day? We recently posted a Field Day questionnaire on the DARG website, and the response has been overwhelming. We received literally hundreds of suggestions and comments. And by literally, of course I mean metaphorically. And by hundreds I mean, well, zero. But it was a strong zero with an definite upward trend.

How about it? Surely you have an opinion on this subject, so let's hear it. June is literally just around the corner. And by literally I mean metaphorically.

And that's it for now.

73 de Bob/AB3H





Green Mountain Repeater Association

Repeaters: *146.61 Cheverly, *146.88

Greenbelt.*(Autopatch).

Information: Don Tinari, W3RYQ, (301)

262-7062.

Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD. 20718.

E-mail: mgreen@erols.com.

Socials: Luncheon, 1st Saturday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Laurel Centre Indoor

Mall Eatery.

Nets: 146.88 - Old Gent's Net, 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. every day. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net, every Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

SPARE CONTROLLER APPROVED:

Your Board of Directors voted to purchase a spare controller. The spare will be used threefold: (1) pre-programmed to enable your Technical Committee to rapidly replace an existing controller that has malfunctioned, thereby reducing repeater downtime; (2) test controller software that is not currently practical due to the extended downtime that it would cause for the repeater and (3) training, to provide backup programmers.

REPEATER FEATURES:

When you get a chance, read up on the new GMRA Operating/By-Law Manual and learn about all the neat features that are available to the members. Since 1971 the primary feature offered to the membership was Autopatch/Autodial. New technology now also provides for: the exchange of voice message mail over the repeater to designated members of your choice; virtually instant replay of your voice test transmission; testing of your touchtones and of course the Internet

Connection, to name a few. Please take advantage of these features.

EQUIPMENT SALES:

Just another reminder that if you have any amateur or amateur related equipment to sell or want to buy, send me the information and I will include it in the monthly Electronic Bulletins. If you have an email address and are NOT receiving the bulletins, please send your address to me at mgreen@erols.com and to our treasurer at donturk@erols.com

SUMMER PICNIC:

The Board is exploring combining the GMRA summer picnic with the Goddard Amateur Radio Club at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's picnic facility in Greenbelt. If we receive a positive response from the Goddard Club we will keep you abreast of the plans.

ANOTHER REQUEST:

To be perfectly candid, I need your help. Help in the form of items/articles/photographs for the monthly Electronic Bulletins, Auto Call magazine column and the bi-annual Newsletter. With over 200 members and after numerous requests over the past year for contributions, I received a total of 3 submissions and a few photographs. Now is your chance to be immortalized in print. So if you have anything, anything at all that you think will be interesting to the membership, please send them to me. Your consideration is appreciated, please.

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS:

Please refer all questions concerning membership dues, operating manuals, autodial number requests, address/telephone changes, etc., to our Treasurer, Don Tinari, W3RYQ, at donturk@erols.com. If you send them to me I have to forward them to Don causing delays in a response. Thanks.

CONDOLENCES:

GMRA sends it's condolences to Ethel Tinari (spouse of Don, W3RYQ) on the loss of her mother. I personally cannot think of any two people who did more for who did more for a mother and mother in-law over the years. They can be very proud of that.

73 de Murray, K3BEQ



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Info: Les Jamison, WR3X, 410-787-0341. Club Station: W3GR.

Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Web Page: http://members.aol.com/wk3p/se.htm

Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

155th Anniversary of the Telegraph

HEMARC in conjunction with The Historical Electronics Museum, will celebrate the 155th Anniversary of the world s first permanent telegraph line.

This historic Maryland first will be held on May 22, 1999. The sending site will be at the Museum. The receiving site, sponsored by the National Cryptology Museum, will be approximately where the first telegraph relay station was located at Annapolis Junction. Morse code will be sent and received via telephone modem between the two

sites. The Baltimore Amateur Radio Television Society and the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Societies will support an Amateur Television Link between the two sites. HEMARC will operate W3GR as a special event station on May 22nd and 23rd.

Review of Rules and Regulations

The HEMARC board of directors reviewed the Rules and Regulations of the club and at the February meeting, Mike Conlon, KB3CPV volunteered to head a committee to revise them. W3GR Operations

It was agreed that more specific training of operators for the W3GR equipment and increased station activity in addition to special event operations were important goals.

Ray Robley, KD3KK agreed to organize the operation of W3GR and a list of volunteer operators was collected. Les Jamison, WR3X volunteered to set up a series of station operation instructions sessions, particularly for the TBL-13 and BC-610.

The BC-610 was tested for AM on the air performance and by all accounts acquitted itself very well. Thanks to Charlie Angel, AA3FB. Advanced/Extra Class Training

Rol Anders, K3RA training class for upgrading is well along with 9 students working on both code and written elements.

VHF/UHF Station Upgrade Desired

HEMARC would like to upgrade its VHF and UHF capability. The ATV is working as well as the topography and antenna situation allows at this time but it is important to add multimode capability to allow packet, CW, SSB and satellite operations to be greatly impaired. All donations of equipment would be very much appreciated.

73 de Chip W4PBG



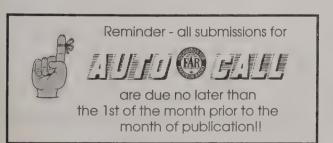
KB3BOI Repeater Group

It is with great sorrow that the Board of Directors and members of the KB3BOI Repeater Group report the passing of founding member and former Director, Ronald Wayne Peter, KD4UUH. Ron succumbed to a heart attack on January 17, 1999, at his mother's home on the northern neck of Virginia. He was 49 years old at the time of his death.

Ron began listening to the 145.35 MHz repeater while it was operating on the shared builder's channel at 145.17 MHz, and he had yet to become a ham. Once licensed, Ron became an active member of the Waldorf Repeater Support Group. As the group became more organized, Ron served as its treasurer. He was instrumental in the growth of the support group into the current KB3BOI Repeater Group, Inc. Most recently, Ron was among the founders of the Charles County Amateur Radio Club.

Ron was an avid Mobile VHF amateur, a Potomac River boater, a motorcyclist, and a friend to many others in and outside of the amateur radio community who shared these interests. He was a volunteer to The Middle Atlantic Repeater Council, and he was elected a director of that organization just a few days before his passing.

Ron leaves behind his mother Emily "Ann" Peter, KE4JXH, and his long term companion Vicky Moreland, N3OAD.





Metropolitan Communications Network Radio Club, Inc.

Meetings: Quarterly, Second Sunday of the

month at 13:30 p.m. Place TBA Repeater: 52.250 IN/53.350 Out.

Net: AM Coffee net Sunday 9:00 AM on

50.400

Information: 6608 N. 18th St. Arlington, VA

22205

The Sunday Morning Coffee Net is one of the oldest Nets in our area. It has operated under many names for over 35 years. Yours truly has been a check-in for over 35 years. The on coming sunspot cycle is gaining 6 meters renewed popularity in this country and others, with the inclusion of the 6 meter band on many manufactures new transceivers models. This also has increased the interest in this band. For the "do it yourself ham" there are new kits on the market that are in the price range of all.

Our Sunday Morning Net 50.400 AM at 9:00 am is gaining new momentum. We have been getting new check-ins each Sunday morning. New check-ins from as far up in Maryland as Aberdeen have been heard south we go down to Brandywine and east to the Annapolis, Maryland area.

Some new check-IN's are Gary N3JOU, Bert N3NFV, Dave W3WKP, Fred N3XBG. Wayne W3HMO. Some of our regular check-ins are Bob WA3GGO Net Control, Stan W3TFA, George N3FNF, Woody K3DLH, Less N3FRO, BOB KC3VO, Joe K3UAL, Nate N3FYT, Lee K3RE. John W30J. Chris WA3LIR, Charlie KE4WVD. Charlie WA4GLO.

The Metropolitan Communications Network invites all Hams in the area and especially the new check-ins to join our organization. Meeting are quarterly ,where you have a chance to "eyeball"

with other 6 meter enthusiast.

73's Joe K3UAL

MID TLANTIC DX & REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Gaithersburg MD.

Net: Thursday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

4 State10M net: Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.

Repeaters: Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A,

Hagerstown MD 21740

Information: Voice BBS (301) 416-8447 and

(301) 473-4151.

Web Page: http://www.qsl.net/madra

E-Mail: madra@qsl.net

As this is written, happy Hams from all directions are closing in on WinterFest and a day of good natured buying, selling, trading, and ogling all the junk - er - fine used equipment, that is. That is, a lot of Hams, but not this one as the flu-like illness is currently in charge of this household.

After a bit of a slow start, the Novice/Tech training classes and Upgrade instruction are running OK at the EOC classroom location in Frederick, Maryland. Each week some of the faithful MADRA volunteer team truck in radios, put up antennas, and set up a shack for the students to get a feel for operating in addition to having the technical and regulatory aspects of our hobby explained.

On the public service front, MADRA is working closely with the Frederick Amateur Radio Club (FARC) to get the RACES organization back

in operation. MADRA and FARC reps met with John Droneburg, Frederick County's Emergency Services Coordinator, in February and worked out a rough set of communications requirements. We've decided not to wait for the FCC to respond to the ARRL proposal concerning relaxed restrictions on RACES and are working toward a full dual membership in ARES and RACES for all Hams volunteering to support emergency services.

Politics is the art of achieving the possible. If we can't talk to each other because of RACES restrictions, we can talk as ARES and then get the traffic into RACES nets at interface points, still complying with all the regs.

So...did you have a good time at the February dinner? How about March? Don't forget that April's dinner is on for Rocco's Restaurant, Hagerstown MD, 8 April at 7PM. Also, don't forget that our colleagues in the Antietam Radio Association will be holding their HamFest 2 May in Hagerstown. They'll need the usual volunteers to help run the show and the involvement of all the rest to buy/sell/trade/ogle as we always do. And...do mark your calendar for Saturday, 10 July, for SwetFest99 in Beautiful Downtown Brunswick, Maryland. MADRA is still working to expand that to a Ham/Computer/Hobby 'Fest.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



Licensed at least 25 years ago?
And licensed now?
Then you should belong to the

Quarter Century Wireless Association

For information write: 159 E. 16th Ave., Dept F Eugene, OR 97401-4017 http://www.gcwa.org



National Capital ARES Council

NCAC Net: Sunday at 9 PM on 146.655(-)

Voice mail: (703) 359-3414. E-mail: NCAC@usa.net.

National Capital ARES Council Offers Institute for Served Agencies

NCAC is offering an opportunity for representatives from potential "served agencies" like (but not limited to) Police, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Red Cross and Salvation Army. They will be learning about ARES/RACES, how we can assist them with communications during emergencies and how to go about incorporating ARES into their Emergency Plans.

NCAC's primary objective is to encourage ARES/RACES volunteers to train together so they can support each other and work together during public and emergency service activities. Every EC knows how difficult it can be to find enough volunteers for a long term event or when more than one activity occurs at the same time. Our served agencies should know that we also have our neighbors as resources.

Though this training is at the request of the Communications Officers on the Emergency Medical Services Council in Northern Virginia, it will be offered to DC and Maryland agencies as well.

We have been requested to show them what we've done in the past and plan to offer a sampling of local and national emergencies where amateur radio played a part in the communications effort. We have planned a panel discussion including representatives from local, state and national organizations who have first hand knowledge and experience with using amateur radio.

There will also be an equipment demonstration. We take a lot for granted, but there is great value in just hearing how clear and strong the signal can be. Think of all the people you talk to who don't know the difference between "CB" (in the old sense, not GMRS) and Amateur Radio. If "CB" is their only frame of reference for radio—other than their own mega-buck system—they may be thinking of those little walkie-talkies with morse code dots and dashes on the front. Quite a difference in signal quality!

Agency representatives will also be encouraged to make contact with local ECs and work with them in planning to use ARES/RACES—including them in their emergency planning documents and agency training.

More than the initial "handshake", we need to get to know each other to feel comfortable and confident with each other to work well together. This familiarization should come in meetings, planning and training—not at the scene of a major incident—if at all possible.

If you know of someone who is interested or would benefit from attending, send NCAC an email at: NCAC@usa.net or leave a voice mail message at (703)359-3414. Include the person's name, position and agency address.

Recent Public Service Activities: In Alexandria—The George Washington Birthday Parade has passed and by the time you read this, so will have the St Patrick's Day Parade. I'd like to thank the volunteers who come out every year and the new faces we've had the pleasure of seeing this year! Parade organizers as well as city agencies have come to depend on Amateur Radio to keep them informed of progress as well as problems along the route. Changes in the order of units are critical to a smooth operation for announcers at the reviewing stand.

Parades are an excellent opportunity for new operators to practice their net skills. Thanks again for volunteering to be a part of the team!

Also Coming up:

March 27 & 28: Hamboree at Timonium; BARC is looking for volunteers to help with a Scouting Merit Badge Program on radio communications on Saturday from 1:00 - 4:00. Free admission, lunch & a commemorative mug are part of the deal. Contact Vikki at (301)249-2609 or vikki@hgnet.com.

May 8: Skywarn Advisory Committee; 10:30 at NWS Sterling



Northern Virginia FM Association

Meetings: Fall, Winter and Spring at Virginia Power, On Rt 50 just west of the West Ox Road overpass and the Fair Oaks Mall.

Weekly Nets: NVFMA Talk Net, Mon, 8:00 PM, 146.79; NVFMA Swap Net, Tue, 8:00 PM, 146.91; NVFMA Clinic, 1st Wed of the month, 7:30 PM, 146.79; NVFMA Net, Wed, 8:00 PM, 146.79; ARES, Sun, 9 PM, 146.91. Repeaters: 52.37/53.37, 146.19/146.79, 146.31/146.91, 222.50/224.10 Xlink, 222.74/224.34, 449.75/444.75, 447.025/442.025, 907.5/917.5, and 1272.1/1292.1.

Membership Info: Ann McWhirt KF4OSL, (703) 330-7429 or email to ammom @erols.com.

E-mail address: nvfma@juno.com.

Web Site: http://www.geocities.com/

SiliconValley/Way/5337/

Mailing Address: NVFMA, P.O. Box 486,

McLean, VA 22101.

During the February - 99 Board meeting the board unanimously approved and appointed Jim (KF4JQE) as an Officer and Secretary for the NVFMA. In addition Jim (KF4JQE) also volunteered to be NVFMA's Photographer.

The NVFMA board formed the following Standing Committees. Administration and

Membership is to be chaired by Jeff (KC4RON). Finance Committee chaired by John (KR10). This committee will be responsible for developing and executing a business plan and a budget to support it. John will present this plan at the next general membership meeting. Technical / Operations committee chaired by John (K4KXK). Public Service chaired by Ed (KE4SKY). External Organizations chaired by Barry (KF4LWX). Wallace (KF4QQP) was appointed as the Assistant TAG Director.

The 146.910, negative offset and the 447.025, negative offset repeaters are back up and running. And are still being worked on and improved on as the time passes along.

Greg Haas (W5ZNT) made a generous donation to the Association. Equipment that he donated were a signal generator, cables, and Misc. equipment.

Jim, KF4JQE



Potomac Valley Radio Club

Packet: K3MQH 145.63, K4FJ 145.77, KE3Q 145.57 445.375, N3RR 145.51 441.325, N4OHE 145.71 440.925, N4SR 145.63, W3LPL 145.59 441.25, WR3L 145.61 440.95.

Web: www.pvrc.org & www.pagesz.net/~pvrcnc

Repeater: 147.000(-) Thanks to Ashton RCS Information: Bob Dannals, W2GG@ amsat.org, 410-472-2004 before 9pm and Rich Boyd, KE3Q@erols.com, 301-464-8014.

You don't have to be a club member or to send in a log to jump into any of these April contests and have fun. Times below are in EST though your log should be in UTC.

Japan International DX CW Contest 9th 6pm to 11th 6pm. 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands. Send RST + CQ zone (Ex: 5NN05 or 5NNT5). They send RST+prefecture (01-50).

MARAC County Hunters SSB Contest: 9th 7pm to 11th 7pm, 3880, 7240, 14270, 21340, & 28340 kHz. Work anybody. US stations send RS-county-state.

ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprints, all modes. Monday the 12th for 144 MHz, Tuesday the 20st for 222 MHz, and Wednesday 28th for 432 MHz. Each is 7pm to 11pm local. Work anybody and exchange grid square numbers. Mostly SSB and CW but watch the simplex channels of 146.55, 146.58, 223.5, and 446.0 MHz for FM contacts.

In state QSO parties you work only stations in the sponsor state and they work anybody. Exchange RS(T) and QTH (your state or sponsor county).

Michigan: 17th 1pm-10pm and 18th 6am-9pm. CW 1810, 3540, 7035, 7125, 14035, 21035, 21125, 28035, & 28125 kHz. SSB: 1855, 3905, 7280, 14280, 21380, & 28580 kHz. Exchanges includes QSO numbers.

Florida: 24th 1pm-11pm and 25th 9am-7pm. CW: 45 kHz up from band edge. Novice 10 kHz up. SSB: 3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, & 28450 kHz. No 160m. Suggest SSB on the hour and CW on half hour.

Nebraska: 24th 12N to 25 12N. CW: 1805 kHz & 80 kHz up from band edge. SSB: 1855, 3880, 7280, 14280, 21380, & 28380 kHz. Novice up 10 kHz and 28380 kHz.

SHAREWARE CONTEST SOFTWARE CT 6.26 with updated country and section files is available FREE from K3DI to anybody living in the PVRC contest club area of Southern PA, MD, DE, DC, WV, VA, and Northern NC. Preferred distribution is via email attachment.

73, Dick Wilder, K3DI, 410-757-6707, wilder@clark.net, or via the above packet network.



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921

Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia. Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater. Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604. President: Wayne Koehler, KE4PMS Info: Wayne Koehler, 540-667-8629.

Internet home page: http://www.vvalley.com/svarc.

SVARC and ARES District-01 to launch digital packet network

The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES District-01) are jointly launching a communications project that includes a multistation digital packet and voice network designed initially to serve the local areas of the City of Winchester, Clarke, Frederick and Warren Counties.

The objective of the project is to provide a reliable network for local amateurs to pass health and welfare communications throughout ARES District-01. Current plans are to initially install stations at eight different public service and emergency facilities within the three county area. In the event of an area emergency, the appropriately designated stations will be manned by amateur radio operators trained in handling emergency traffic (messages).

A future addition includes the installation of a packet (repeater) node to be located atop North Mountain west of Winchester, VA that will enable

direct communications into the Richmond, VA area.

SVARC Emergency Coordinator Brian Mawhinney/WB3FUM, ARES D-01 DEC Fred Wetzel/W4KRT and VDEN Public Information Officer Jim Dodd/KF4LGV have been leading an extensive effort in designing the system, training many club members about packet communications, acquiring the equipment, plus the assembly and bench testing of each station.

The group is proceeding with equipment installation at the following locations: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club facility, American Red Cross bldg., Winchester Medical Center, Clarke County EOC, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Winchester City Public Safety Building and the Warren County Hospital.

Approval for a station at the I-81 southbound weigh scales from the VA. State Police is pending. Currently, about 20% of the system is in place. The group anticipates that 90% of the system will be functioning within 90 days.

The capabilities of the system when fully manned will be rather extensive, says Fred Wetzel/W4KRT. The completed network is expected to enable voice and data communications throughout our local community plus provide a data link to be interfaced with the Virginia EOC in Richmond, VA.

The VA EOC is an integral part of a national communications system and has communications connectivity with the FEMA National Radio System.

Jim Dodd/KF4LGV stated that the SVARC/ARES D-01 Group is taking the lead in the Shenandoah Valley by linking into the statewide system on the coordinated digital emergency frequency of 145.730MHZ.

Watch for updates on the status of this new system in future issues of the Auto Call.

SVARC Public Service Events:

Our first PSE for the spring of 99 will be to provide communications support for the March of Dimes Walk America event on Saturday April 24th. Dave Watterson / N4DAW is the event coordinator.

The Shenandoah Valley Apple Blossom Festival begins the last week of April. SVARC support of the week-end parades (two) will begin on Friday afternoon April 30 during the Firemens Parade line up. Saturday morning May 1st, we will be supporting the Apple Blossom 10K Run. Saturday afternoon, we will be manning communications check points for the Apple Blossom Grand Feature Parade line up. This will be a very busy week-end in our community and hopefully the weather will be nice. Tom Sullivan / KD4WSM and Irv Barb / W4DHU are the coordinators for the week-end activities.

73, Guy Avey, W3INT guy@visuallink.com



Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

Nets: Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

Repeater: WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. PL 114.8, Autopatch to 911. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

Information: Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.

Internet: http://www.iscanit.com/smarc

By the time you read this, hopefully Winter will be over and warm weather will be here. And

we will all be working on our antennas and enjoying Spring.

At our February 12th meeting, we discovered that our current membership stands at 86, an indication that we need to do some active recruiting. We are also looking for a good location for our 1999 Field Day ... any suggestions?

We celebrated SMARC's 24th birthday with some refreshments, including a fine birthday cake prepared by Linda, KA3VNI. Thanks, Linda, it was delicious!

Not too early to start planning for a big blowout next February for SMARC's 25th Silver Anniversary. All SMARC members, former members, future members, and friends, mark the second Friday in February (the 11th) in the year 2000 on your calendar.

At the last meeting, Vic, WA3YUV, our repeater trustee and namesake, presented details on the need for a new controller for our 147.150 repeater. The board and membership approved the purchase, and I understand that an order has been placed for a CAT-1000 repeater controller. This will replace the controller on our 2-meter repeater, with the old controller from there being moved to our 440 repeater. Who knows, by the time you read this maybe the improvements will have been implemented.

We still have our 2-meter nets on Tuesday at 8:00 pm, and all members and friends are encouraged to check in and participate in the exchange of information. This is how we find out latest plans for the repeater improvement, and other news of the SMARC community.

I regret to announce that three more SMARC members have joined the ranks of the Silent Keys: "Frosty" Akers, W3PT, passed away on March 1. Dave Coffield, W3IDL, passed away on February 7, and Richard Daelhousen, N3DDJ, passed away on February 15. It was also reported that former SMARC member WB3AZH, Bob White, passed

away some time ago in South Carolina. They will be missed by all.

Stay tuned to the SMARC repeater for details of the 1999 "Christmas in April" activities in Prince George's County in Southern Maryland. Many members of the various local Amateur Radio Clubs participate in this event each year, on the last Saturday in April (24th this year) by providing communications for the volunteers who are rebuilding and renovating houses for those unable to take care of it themselves. A very gratifying experience, and another opportunity for Hams to "give back something" to the community. If you have not yet signed up to help out this year, and would like to do so, please contact George Dewees, KA3KIF, at 301-292-1241, or ka3kif@juno.com

73 until next month .. Al, W2GJS



Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.

Mailing: Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167. Information: Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email KS4II@AOL.com.

Home Page: www.qsl.net/sterling

Club Callsign: K4NVA

Twenty-two amateurs and future amateurs attended the February SPARC meeting. ARRL Roanoke Division Director John Kanode, N4MM spoke to the club about the latest from ARRL. John filled us in on how big of an effort it is for the league to stay on top of the frequency and band allocation issue. It requires constant attendance at the various committee and conference meetings. The fact is that this takes a large portion of the ARRL budget and makes it even more important that all of us join the ARRL.

John felt we might see an announcement from the FCC about the new licensing structure at the Dayton Hamfest and that the new plan could be in place before the end of 1999. Thanks again to John for taking the time to speak to our club.

Remember to mail your 1999 VA QSO Party entries by April 17,1999.

73, Bill, KS4II



Vienna Wireless Society

Meetings: 7:30 pm the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the cafeteria of the Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street South, Vienna, VA 22180.

Nets: Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm on 28.444 MHz. Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.685(-).

Repeaters: K4HTA 146.685(-), 448.375(-). **Information:** Steven Karty, N5SK, president, (703) 938-5454; Programs: Mike Steussy, AE4R, (703) 281-0010.

Mailing: P.O. Box 418, Vienna, VA 22183

Membership Meetings: The Vienna Wireless Society (VWS) Amateur Radio Club held both of its regularly-scheduled meetings, on 12 and 26 February 1999.

Board Meeting: The 1 March 1999 VWS Board Meeting was canceled because the VWS WINTERFEST Hamfest was held the day before, on 28 February.

RF Hazard Evaluation: Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM, has a loaner copy of FCC Bulletin supplement B and a worksheet for analyzing station

radiation hazards for compliance with the 1999 regulations.

Leading Edge: VWS' annual technical publication, Leading Edge, is now available thanks to Kerry Kingham, with special thanks for editorial advice from the VWS Relay newsletter editor, Jim Parsons, WA4LTO.

Training: Kurt Wehle, WA4SMI, announced the start of a no-code license course on 22 March at Patrick Henry Library in Vienna, VA.

Field Day: Mike Toia, K3MT, announced that the 1999 VWS Field Day operations would once again be at Burke Lake Park.

Future Programs: Mike Steussey, AE4R, announced the following revised schedule of programs for future meetings:

12 March: Tim Titus, W4HZV - PACTOR II and HF E-Mail

26 March: Meeting cancelled for VWS Annual Banquet

9 April: Joel Knoblock, W3RFC - RF Connectors

23 April: Bruno Pattan - Space Junk

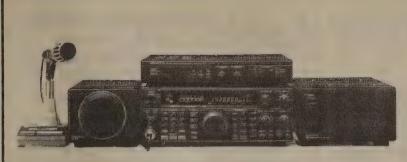
73, Steven - N5SK

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WANTED: Tubes, 860, 861, and 4-1000A pulls. Tube manual (Vade Mecum) 1948, By P.H. Brans. Also RCA 44BX microphone any condx. K4LJH@juno.com (540) 338-7845. [05/99]

WANTED: Geiger counters, Geiger tubes similar to Raytheon CK1026 or any other Geiger-Muller tubes or radiation type detectors or items. New/Old/Working or non-working. Write to: Lee K3ECD, 6337 Evelyn St., Harrisburg, PA 17111-4206 or call (717) 564-4529 or e-mail K3ECD@worldnet.att.net. [06/99]

FOR SALE: Vacuum tube sale - 375. All tested in boxes, tube bases - 4 pin, 5 pin, Loctal, Octal, Novar, Compactron. Priced as follows: \$3.50 each or them all for \$3.25 each. "Les" Werling (301) 662-4424 evenings. [05/99]

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FOR SALE: Alinco DJ-C5 VHF/UHF handheld Xcvr - New - \$100.00. Morton K3EH, (301) 299-6562. [04/99]

FOR SALE: 29 copies of ARRL Handbook from 12th edition to 66th; 1937 Jones Radio Handbook, 21st and 33rd editions of Radio Handbook. Send for list. Sell for best offer (410) 321-6856 or LEEW3FQE@juno.com. [04/99]



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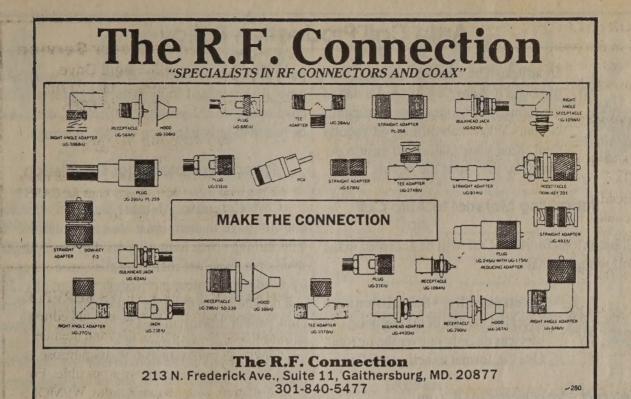
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puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

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Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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